

Centennaries

During the Coming Year a Number of One-Hundredth Anniversaries Will Be Observed—Centenary of Founding of American Bible Society—Its Work Broad in Scope. Society to Hold a Centennial Celebration. Centenary of Birth of Charlotte Bronte—Her Sad Story—Charlotte Saunders Cushman, American Actress, Born in 1816—Leutz, Who Painted "Washington Crossing the Delaware"—In the Realm of Literature Baltimore, Md., Has Been Lighted by Gas for 100 Years—Other Events of Interest.

NE hundred years ago today—how many stories have hung on those few fatigued words, and what stimulus to imagination lies within them!

Yearly, at this time, these words rise up and lead us, in spite of ourselves, into the dear departed past to review the bygone events that have been so important enough to register a lasting impression on the world's history.

The deeds of the past and the ideas which people have contributed to the total of human knowledge—the stones on which the present and the future are built—command interest through their intrinsic as well as their relative value. The year 1916—it will be found—ushers in a number of centennaries which possess such a twofold worth.

In gaining their importance in universal progress it must be borne in mind that the world in 1816 was just recovering from the great Napoleonic wars, and much of the energy laid upon religion during that year may be ascribed to the reaction which the nations were inevitably experiencing as a result of them.

It is predicted that a parallelism to the religious wars will occur at the end of the present European conflict. Should such an event come to pass within the limits of the century, missionary work redoubled its ardor and denominational conferences were held everywhere with a view toward spreading the influence of Christianity.

Perhaps the most notable expression of the year—in fact, the one which has lived and prospered for a century and still continues with ever-widening scope to carry on its religious work—is the American Bible Society.

Since it began in May, 1816, the American Bible Society has followed the single aim of increasing the circulation of the Scriptures. Its efforts have spread until they reach five countries and the islands of seven seas, through nine home and twelve foreign agencies. In ninety-nine years it has issued 109,336,214 Bibles.

The story of the American Bible Society begins with the settlement of the thirteen original colonies. The wilderness of America was a asylum for oppressed lovers of the Bible, and it is not a mere coincidence that this book should have become their most important possession.

As the population spread westward many people settled in regions without church or preacher to keep fresh in their hearts the story of God's presence.

Christian men dreamed the permanent loss to the settlers and the nation which would surely follow when the Bibles were outworn. Light came when the idea of a general Bible distribution was adopted. Local Bible societies did effective service for a time, but distant of communication showed that combination only could

deal with the wide expanse of this country. Accordingly, representatives of thirty-five local Bible societies met in New York city in 1816 to consider a form of combined action. This convention unanimously voted to form the American Bible Society with the simple, distinctive object to increase the circulation of the Holy Bible without note or comment.

Men of public renown fostered the growth of the new society. Elias Boudinot, its first president, was a philanthropist and statesman of note. He was a member of the Continental Congress (later United States) Congress for five years and served as its president from 1782 until 1784. In this capacity he signed the treaty of peace after the revolutionary war with Great Britain. His other public office was the directorship of the mint at Philadelphia from 1795 to 1805.

John Jay, the second president of the American Bible Society, was another statesman who shaped the destiny of the republic. John Quincy Adams, one of the first vice presidents of the society, lost no whit of his interest in its affairs after he became President of the United States. Richard Varick, the third president of the society, like his two predecessors, was a personal friend of George Washington. The influence of these men at once commanded the confidence of the people and this confidence has been maintained by a long line of distinguished Americans who have succeeded them as officers of the society.

In 1825 demands for Scriptures beyond the ability of the society suggested that time was ripe for an advance in the work. The society issued a new tract, covering three-quarters of an acre, was built to meet these demands. In this plain brick building are the records of the society's issues of Bibles and testaments during the century. Throughout the whole of the thirty-ninth year of the society, issues from the Bible house have averaged sixteen volumes every minute of the day.

At the Bible house also are studied the problems of the translation of the Scriptures. Two of the versions of the American Indians, eight are in the languages of the islands of the Pacific, and the five leading languages of Africa, Asia, Europe, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, besides Bulgarian and Estonian, find their way into the presses as well.

The distribution of Bibles by 1,000 colporteurs and twenty-one agencies begins the story of the society's work in reaching all classes of people. The United States army, seamen, destitute, immigrants, inmates of public institutions, hotels, steamboats, railroad cars—all have been recipients of the supply of Bibles from the society.

The preparations for the centennial of the society's organization have been proceeding with good results. The executive committee of the board of managers has had frequent meetings and correspondence with denominations of the country, and the spirit of the occasion is spreading in the churches and among the friends of the society.

The request of the Panama-Pacific exhibition of the year 1915 was called

position the society conducted a world's Bible congress at San Francisco in August, 1915. While this was not part of the centennial celebration, yet it afforded an admirable opportunity for awakening interest.

In 1816 the Waldensian Bible Society was organized at La Tour, France, and similar societies spread all over Germany. In fact, their prominence was marked enough to incur the displeasure of Pope Pius VII, who issued an edict against Bible societies on June 29 of the same year.

Other evidences of the religious fervor which arose in 1816 are shown in the organization of a number of societies for the promotion of theological education. The Boston Society for Moral and Religious Instruction of the Poor, the Divinity School of Harvard established by Unitarians, tract societies in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Hartford, the Presbyterian board of missions—these are only a few of the organizations which had their inception in 1816.

Other fields, though paved by the prominence given to religious thought, were not totally unproductive in that year. Geniuses who were to shine in the future in different branches of art came into the world at this time, the best known of these being the widely known novelists, Charlotte Bronte, Anne and Emily, who were destined for an indisputably permanent place in the literary world. At the age of ten years Charlotte was sent to the Clergy Daughters' School, where the harsh and drastic discipline were held accountable for the death of two of her younger sisters. In "Jane Eyre," Charlotte afterward gibbered this school under the disguise of "Lowood."

In childhood she was ambitious to have a school of her own. In order to assure greater independence for herself, she planned to acquire a proficiency in languages and became a pupil at the Pensionnat Heger in Brussels. She recalled from Belgium the death of her aunt, who, accordingly, she returned to her friend, Mr. Heger, and passed a year in his school, where she undoubtedly widened her intellectual horizons by reading many books on French literature. The influence of Brussels was significant in affecting her later work.

Her literary life began in 1846 when a volume of poems appeared by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell, names which disguised the identity of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte. These poems were a failure, with the exception of "Ruth," which alone revealed a true poetic genius. Each of the girls came forward with a novel, and the work of which subsequently received favorable notice.

Charlotte's novel was called

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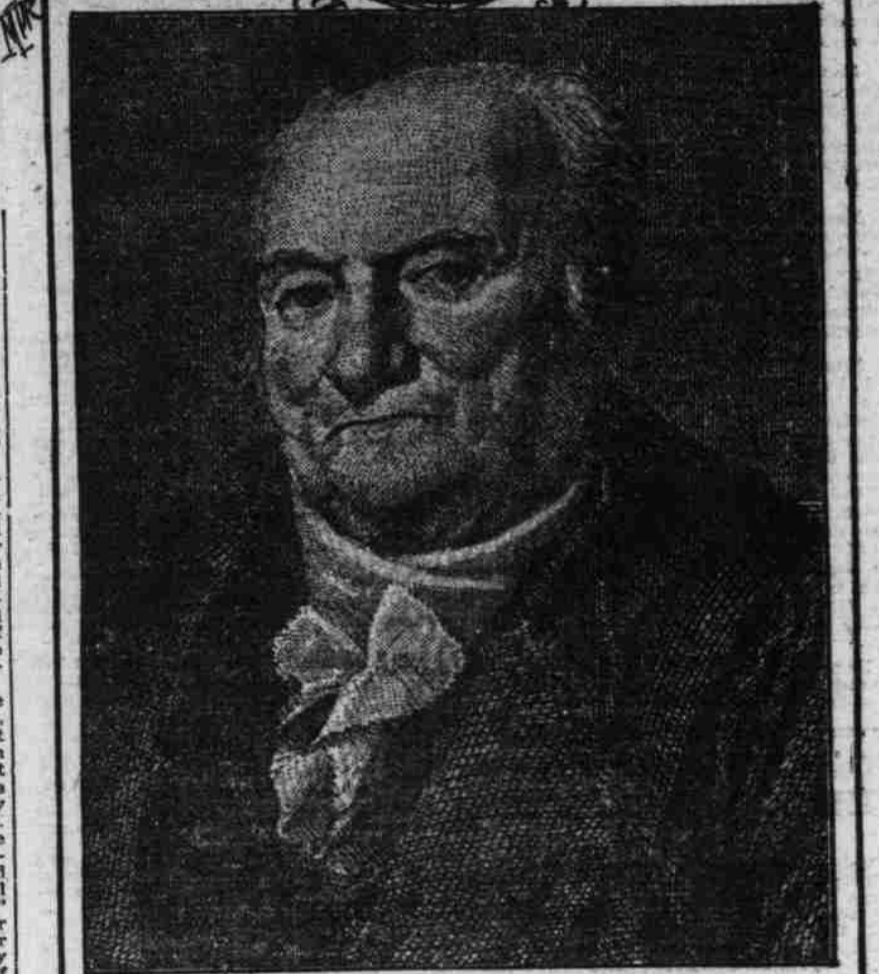
To her is conceded by the chief of the division and her office associates as competent and thorough a knowledge of the national bank act and its numerous and complex ramifications as is possessed by any of the specialists.

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ELIAS BOUDINOT, L.D., FIRST PRESIDENT AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.



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Each of the girls came forward with a novel, and the work of which subsequently received favorable notice. Charlotte's novel was called "Jane Eyre," and it was a masterpiece of the novel. It was a story of a young girl who was orphaned and sent to a school, and then to a house where she lived with a family. It was a story of love and passion, and it was a story of a woman who was strong and independent.

Merrills in a dramatization of Scott's "Guy Ransmering." Charlotte Cushman's figure was striking and attractive; she was animated by a temperament full of vigor and life. These qualities enabled her to play with success such male parts as Romeo and Cardenio. During her later years she appeared as a dramatic reader. Her last appearance took place at the Globe Theater, in Boston, in 1875. She died the following year.

Charlotte Cushman was recently honored by the New York University, having been admitted, with nine other immortals, to the hall of fame. This is a singular tribute to the dramatic profession, as she is the first actress to be so distinguished.

The birthday of Emmanuel Leutz, famous American painter, who did much to bring American art to the foreground of interest, occurred May 24, 1816. He was born in Gmund, Wurtemberg, and as a child was taken to Philadelphia, where he displayed youthful talent as an artist. At the age of twenty-five he had saved enough money to take him to Düsseldorf for a course at the Royal Academy.

Almost immediately he began to paint historical subjects. His first important work, "Columbus Before the Council of Salamanca," was purchased by the Dusseldorf Art Union. In 1860 Leutz was commissioned by the United States government to decorate a pair of the Capitol. His large composition, "Westward the Star of Empire Takes Its Way," is well known.

His best known work, "Washington Crossing the Delaware," is a large canvas containing a score of life-sized figures. It is owned by the Metropolitan Museum, in New York. The painter died in Washington July 18, 1858.

The most notable literary creation to appear in 1816 was Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Alaster; or, The Spirit of Solitude," a magnificent expression of the poet's own restless, restless spirit wandering among the solitudes of nature in search of a lovely dream land in which he might find rest.

Another notable work was Leigh Hunt's "Story of Rimini." It may also be recalled in this connection that Lord Byron left his native land in 1816 and began his exile in Italy and Greece.

The famous Elgin marbles were purchased by the British Museum just 100 years ago. These marbles received their name from the Earl of Elgin, a British diplomat and art collector who removed these celebrated sculptures from Athens. In doing so he aroused much discussion and was censured as a vandal. Doubts were expressed as to the artistic value of many of the pieces.

The marbles were on exhibition in the British Museum. At this same time, Giovanni Battista Belzoni, an Italian explorer of Egyptian antiquities, removed with great skill the colossal bust of Ramesses II, commonly called the young Memnon, from the Temple of Thebes in Egypt and placed in the British Museum.

Science in 1816 was not advanced by any remarkable discovery or invention. A number of events of small significance came to pass, however, which may be taken as an indication that the scientific world was not standing completely still at the time.

Baltimore will have been lighted by gas for a century upon the advent of the new year. In Philadelphia the first theater was lighted by gas in 1816; the first iron bridge was built in 1817; the first iron ships were built in 1818.

Historically, the year 1816 was a dull year in the history of the world. It will call forth humanity's laurel wreaths this year. The most interesting of these which did occur, however, are the law passed in France excluding Napoleon from French soil the family of Napoleon Bonaparte; the declaration

of independence from Spanish rule declared by the Argentine congress of deputies; the first session of the diet of the Germanic federation, held at Frankfurt November 18; the admittance of Indiana to statehood and the initial opening of savings banks in the United States.

The progress of education was accelerated by the establishment in 1816 of the universities of Ghent and Liege and the foundation of the Pennsylvania State Public Library at Harrisburg. During this year the French Academy was reorganized to compose of forty life members, who should be the highest authority on questions of language, grammar, rhetoric and poetry.

Two important births occurred during 1816 that may not be included under any of the headings of literature, art, religion or science. These are the births of August Belmont, famous American financier, and George Henry Thomas, major general in the United States Army during the civil war.

They both have left strong impressions, each in his line of endeavor, on the life of this nation. August Belmont was born at Alai, Rhenish Prussia, on the 8th of December. He entered the banking house of the Rothschilds at Frankfurt at the age of fourteen, and subsequently acted as their agent at Naples. In 1837 he settled in the United States as American representative and became a naturalized American citizen. He married the daughter of Commodore Matthew Perry.

In the later years of his life August Belmont found time to serve his country in numerous capacities. He was charge d'affaires of the United States legation at The Hague in 1855 and American minister to Mexico until 1858. During the civil war he was an energetic supporter of the north and exerted a strong influence in the favor of the north upon foreign merchants and financiers. He died in New York in 1890.

His two sons, Perry and August Belmont, have also been prominent in the national affairs. Perry Belmont, who makes his home in Washington in the winter, has been a member of Congress and United States minister to Spain. August Belmont, who was prominent in financing the New York subway, was a general, was born in Virginia July 31, 1816. After his graduation from the Military Academy he served in Florida against the Seminoles. At the outbreak of the civil war he stood his sympathies and associations with the south. In the battle of Murfreesboro he commanded the left wing, where the great struggle took place for Chattanooga, out of which the enemy had been maneuvered.

The record of Thomas' wonderful resistance for a period of five hours against the concentrated efforts of the enemy after the Federal right was routed forms one of the most remarkable events in the history of the war. After this he was given command successively of the army of the Cumberland and in Tennessee. As a reward for the heroic action which he displayed in the battle of Nashville he was promoted to the rank of major general in the army and tendered a vote of thanks by Congress.

During the remaining months of the war he contributed materially to the overthrow of the Confederacy by organizing and leading expeditions into the south which resulted in the capture of Jefferson Davis.

After the close of the war he commanded military districts in several parts of the country, his death occurring at San Francisco, where he commanded the military division of the Pacific.

A large bronze statue was erected to his memory in Washington shortly after his death, and the circular park which incloses the statue is called by his name.

WOMAN IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE IS AN EXPERT IN THE BANKING LAWS

Miss Adele M. Stewart of the Office of the Controller of the Currency, a Woman for Whom Problems in Finance Have No Terrors—Twenty-Two Years in the Service. She Studied Law at Night—Her Work.

Special Correspondence WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23, 1915.

THERE is but a small minority of business men who thoroughly understand in every detail the national bank act; and the recent changes have not in any degree

book to the great majority. It is wholly doubtful if there are a dozen women throughout the country who comprehend the complex, although invaluable, measures of surveillance over and assistance to the banking industry.

There is, however, in Washington one woman who has the national bank act and its amendments at her finger ends, as well as hundreds of other laws relating to national banks.

This woman is Miss Adele M. Stewart, who has largely under her direction the work connected with the bank examiners' reports to the office of the controller of the currency. Miss Stewart's personality belies the difficult role she is ably filling in the federal service, for, instead of wearing a severely judicial mien, she is pleasantly tranquil in manner and graciously courteous of address, having nothing in her appearance to indicate to the world that she is the untangler of bank knots which to the outsider would seem to be the most gnarled and nerve-racking into which the nation's business could be tied.

The examination division of the office of the controller of the currency handles all reports of examinations of national banks made by the national bank examiners. It is with this division that Miss Stewart is connected, and she has a large share of the work being under-

her immediate direction. As there are more than 7,000 national banks in the United States which are required to make reports on the call of the controller of the currency, it is not fewer than five times a year, and as they are examined twice a year—and in addition to all of this special examination—there are the aggregate reports and the correspondence relating to the work of the division. This division handles all correspondence with examiners, who are constantly on the road, sent out by the United States Treasury to protect the interests of the public and to guard the money of great corporations.

The mass of work entailed by the examination of the national banks of this country is handled by a corps of half a hundred clerks, of whom Miss Stewart is dean. She has earned her place by twenty-two years of assiduous service in the bureau, during which time

she has applied herself especially to the study of the novel. To her is conceded by the chief of the division and her office associates as competent and thorough a knowledge of the national bank act and its numerous and complex ramifications as is possessed by any of the specialists.

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the office of the controller of the currency has had greater experience in adjusting unsatisfactory conditions, advising and assisting them in the way of improving existing evils and working out of difficult situations.

With all these phases of the work of the examiners Miss Stewart is familiar in every detail. It speaks well for her office is accomplishing a worthy share in advancing the financial stability of the nation, so materially strengthened

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by the national bank act, as amended, and by the federal reserve act, as amended. A number of young men in the bureau of the controller of the currency have banded themselves into a night class for the study of the national bank act in particular and banking laws in general. It speaks well for the regard, personal and professional, in which Miss Stewart is held that she was asked to be the instructor of this class.

The Optimist. CHARLES F. MURPHY, the Tammany leader, praising optimism, said: "When I am looking for cheer, bracing optimism. I often think of the street musician playing 'Christians Awake' on a cornet in the midst of a driving snowstorm on Christmas day. The snow fell, the wind blew, and the musician, standing in a deep drift, tooted away when a lady passed. 'The man looked down at his shabby attire and said to himself proudly and optimistically: 'How lucky it's only my shoes that's full of holes. They don't show at all in this deep snow.'"

Intolerable. GEORGE LUKS, the New York painter, attended a studio tea in Washington Square last week. Mr. LUKS, like all conscientious artists, gives no praise except sincere praise, and hence praise from him is valued. None fell from his lips, however, at the studio tea in question. The host, a rich sculptor, finally led Mr. LUKS to a statuette of a dancing faun and said, despondently: "Come, come, LUKS, admit that this is at least tolerable!" "My dear fellow," the artist drawled, "what is your opinion of a tolerable egg?"